

Minority Fashion Designers
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Summary by Carly Erskine

Fashion designers are artists. They express themselves through their collections and set trends for the masses. However, in this industry there is a lack of minority fashion designers. Enma Cabrera, a student at the University of Rhode Island, discussed the reasons for the lack of minority fashion designers as well as highlighting some successful designers. Many reasons are cited for the lack of ethnic fashion designers. Fashion is an insecure profession. It is a very difficult industry to work for and many times aspiring designers need to work their way up starting at low-level jobs. Some minority communities experience a lack of art education. Amongst schools, art programs tend to be cut first when faced with budget cuts. It is hard for many people to get the education they want and need to succeed as fashion designers. Education is expensive and can be difficult for people to afford it. Psychological experiences can play a prominent role as well. This doesn't mean there aren't any minority fashion designers; they are just limited in number. Designers like Caroline Herrera of Venezuela, or Jason Wu of Taiwan, or African American Tracy Reese have developed successful fashion lines. However, within the fashion industry, minority fashion designers are at a minimum.